

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS19983C1

This legislation raises fees to pay approximately 2.4 FTEs needed to meet current demand for processing applications to change existing water rights. There are four components to the proposal. The first component removes water right changes from the fee structure in Idaho Code § 42-221A. The second component amends Idaho Code § 42-221C to raise the fee for an application to amend a water right permit to \$100. The third component inserts a new subsection, Idaho Code § 42-221O, to create a separate fee structure for changes to vested water rights. Idaho Code § 42-221O doubles the existing fees for water right changes and includes an additional application fee of \$250 for applications to change the nature of use of a water right. Nature of use changes are the most complicated for IDWR to review and process. The fourth component amends Idaho Code § 42-248 to apply the ownership change notification fee to applications to change water rights. Ownership changes add a significant level of complexity to applications to change water rights.

### FISCAL NOTE

There will be no impact to the General Fund. The proposed changes will generate an estimated total of \$133,000 for the water administration account in FY 2012. The estimated total is comprised of the following parts:

- Doubling the fee for applications to change vested water rights would generate an estimated increase of \$105,000 in FY 2012 for the water administration account, depending on the number of applications received.
- Charging an additional fee of \$250 for applications to change the nature of use of a water right would generate an estimated \$6,500 of additional funding in FY 2012 for the water administration account, depending on the number of applications received.
- Raising the fee for amending a permit would generate an estimated increase of \$2,500 in FY 2012 for the water administration account, depending on the number of applications received.
- Applying the ownership change fee to applications to change water rights would generate an estimated increase of \$19,000 in FY 2012 for the water administration account, depending on the number of applications received.

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